VZCZCXYZ0001 RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHLP #0440 0521737 ZNR UUUUU ZZH R 211737Z FEB 06 FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8141 INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 5615 RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2881 RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 6754 RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 3976 RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1324 RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 1223 RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 1655 RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 3576 RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 3961 RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 8478 RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC RULSDMK/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON DC RUEANHA/FAA NATIONAL HQ WASHINGTON DC RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS LA PAZ 000440

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EB/TRA JHORWITZ AND WHA/AND LPETRONI COMMERCE FOR EALFORD AND JANGLIN STATE PASS TO DOT FOR CCOLDREN TREASURY FOR SGOOCH

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: <u>EAIR PREL</u> <u>BL</u>

SUBJECT: FUEL TAX DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: STATE 22791

- ¶1. (U) Econoffs delivered reftel talking points to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Maria Luisa Ramos, Vice Minister of Economic Relations and Foreign Trade, on February 13, ¶2006. Ramos said she was unfamiliar with the issue but promised to speak to GOB counterparts in relevant ministries, asking for a letter outlining the USG position to use in discussions with appropriate officials.
- 12. (U) A letter drafted with L input was signed by Ambassador Greenlee on February 16 and delivered to Ramos the following day. GOB officials are aware they have 14 days from the date of the letter to respond to USG demands that the GOB eliminate taxes on jet fuel uplifted by U.S.-registered air carriers, lest Bolivian air carriers' current exemption from U.S. fuel taxes be removed. Post requests that the Department of Commerce advise the Embassy several days before Bolivian airlines are forced to begin paying U.S. fuel taxes. GREENLEE